



EXCITER

July 2008

Issue No. 448

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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Time to Renew!

Please help us continue to provide quality programs, activities, and events for our club members. One of the ways we do this is through the RARS annual dues. The membership year is July 1-June 30, so it's time to renew!

There are a number of ways to pay your dues.

- Pay at a RARS meeting.
- Mail your dues to the RARS Treasurer at the following address:
Greg Seamster
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606
- Pay online at <http://www.rars.org/joinrars.htm>. Online payments are made via PayPal to Raleigh_ARS@earthlink.net. If there are no data changes to your membership (address, call, license class, etc.), you do not need to fill out a renewal form. The membership form can be downloaded in a PDF format from the website. Please provide updates for your interest in Public Service, SKY-WARN, and ARES.

Thanks! We could not do it without you.

Dues	
Regular	\$18
Reduced (under 12 or over 60)	\$12
Associate (not licensed)	\$9
Each additional family member	\$5

*You are welcome to renew for multiple years!

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
editor@rars.org

Want to be a Published Author?

Everyone has their favorite aspects of amateur radio. From contests to antenna building, there's something for everyone in this great hobby. Why not share your interests, expertise, and experience with RARS in the *Exciter*? We welcome member and non-member/affiliate submissions.

Both technical and non-technical articles are needed for the *Exciter*. You could write up a quick column on QSL cards or a longer how-to piece on setting up a new shack. And don't feel pressured to write a tome; articles of all sizes are appreciated!

To submit an article, simply email your piece to the Editor (editor@rars.org). Please also feel free to attach pictures to accompany your article. It is helpful if you add captions and identify the people in photographs.

We look forward to learning from each other and broadening our club's knowledge base! So break out those pens, pencils, and keyboards and get writing!

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



May 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 390	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 19/16	Checkins: 84
Minutes: 625	Minutes: 510
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 13

Upcoming Hamfests

July 12	Firecracker Hamfest Salisbury, NC http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker.htm
July 13	NHARC Hamfest Pittsburgh, PA http://nharc.org/
July 19	Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest Cary, NC http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/swapfest.html
July 20	Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest Baltimore, MD http://bratsatv.org/hamfest.html
July 26	Western Carolina Hamfest Lake Junaluska, NC http://www.wcars.org/hamfest.html

Welcome to RARS!

Sean Bowman	KJ4EGT
Karl Bowman	W4CHX
Bob Chapman	NC1X
Evan Kinney	KG4OCG
Mary Lundberg	KE4KPZ
Mark Womack	KJ4ECJ

July RARS Meeting

The July program will be
PSK31 by Justin Pinnix
KI4WAF.

July Birthdays

James	KE4DRN	7/3
Will	KM4SZ	7/4
Chip	WB4ZVR	7/4
Cathy	KA3QPU	7/9
John	AI4RT	7/10
Debbie	WD8EBI	7/13
Jeff	KE4MEQ	7/13
Doug	AD4UL	7/14
Giff	KC4SAM	7/15
Al	AE4QV	7/16
Weaver	KI4OFK	7/17
Bob	K4RLC	7/19
John	KI4VVC	7/22
Ferdinand	AD4RC	7/25
Chuck	WB4TNC	7/26
Charles	WB4DCM	7/26
Glenn	KS4VA	7/27
William	K4CIA	7/28
Mark	KE4IZP	7/28
Meme	KE4NGM	7/28
Dave	W4YDY	7/29
Bob	KI4YXM	7/30

Amateur Radio at Red Cross Ready Expo 2008

**Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA,
Central Carolina SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator**

On May 31, 2008, the Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross sponsored the Red Cross Ready Expo at Triangle Towne Center in north Raleigh to help folks better prepare for disaster. Among the 14 exhibitors were Wake ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) and Central Carolina SKYWARN, highlighting the role that amateur radio plays in communications and service to their respective agencies. Wake ARES displayed their well-equipped mobile communications vehicle, in operation, while Central Carolina SKYWARN teamed up with the National Weather Service to display NOAA weather radios, rain gauges, anemometers, a radiosonde, and assorted weather safety literature. SKYWARN also set up a special event station to make contacts with spotters throughout the Triangle area.



Clockwise from top left: Visitors at the SKYWARN tent browse through the exhibit. John Snellen AI4RT sets up equipment outside the Wake ARES communications vehicle. Bob Woodson WX4MMM and Virginia Enzor NC4VA at special event station WX4NC look for contacts on the WB4TQD 146.88 repeater. Neal Fisher N4HAF, Bob Conder K4RLC, and David Crawford KF4VXJ put up the Wake ARES antenna.

RARS Field Day 2008

**Article by Neal Fisher N4HAF,
RARS Field Day Chair**

What is Field Day?

It's a contest like no other. The idea behind field day is to test your ability to set up and operate a station competitively under non-ideal conditions. This means no commercial facilities like buildings or power. Stations operate on all bands from UHF through HF with the exception of the WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 meters) and on all modes, phone, cw and digital. The spirit of field day combines a weekend of camping with intense radio operating. Some consider field day the premier operating event of the year – the most fun you can have without breaking the law!

Who sponsors Field Day?

Field day is organized and sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, a national membership association for Amateur Radio operators.

When is Field Day and how long does it last?

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. This year (2008) it's Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29. The operating starts on Saturday at 1800 UTC for everyone (2PM EDT) and runs 24 hours. The rules allow stations, 24 hours before the event, to begin setting up so the fun starts on Friday, June 27, 2PM ET.

How are points made?

The main goal is to make as many contacts as possible. So that an individual isn't up against a large club operation, there are different entry categories. There are categories or classes for clubs, individuals, mobile operation and even operating at home. No matter how you want to participate, there's a category for you. The rules favor HF operating but there is plenty of activity on the VHF and UHF bands. Contacts through repeaters are not allowed. Points are awarded based on the number of contacts, the mode of operation and power level. Quality operating skills with emphasis on persistence and patience are the keys to success. For a successful contact, stations exchange their operating class and ARRL section. See the ARRL rules in the May 2008 issue of QST for full details.

Where is Field Day?

Most groups conduct their operations in the classic tradition in the field. Many operators, however, operate from their homes or vehicles. RARS will once again conduct operations from the Carroll Site, 4501 Friendship Rd, APEX, N.C. 27539

How popular is it?

Field Day is one of the most popular contests, attracting many thousands of operators. The bands are very crowded on field day weekend!

Who participates?

All US and Canadian hams can compete for points. Contacts can be made with any station anywhere in the world but the vast majority of contacts are made within the US and Canada.

Isn't a lot of operating experience necessary?

No! If you're a new ham and have never operated on HF, Field Day is a wonderful opportunity to get some

mic or key time. Many new hams have had their first taste of field day at a RARS operation. Even members of the general public have made contacts at RARS field day operations.

What is RARS' involvement with field day?

RARS has a tradition of going out for Field Day in a big way. On at least 3 occasions in recent years our club has taken top honors in its class and on at least one occasion placed in the top ten for total points regardless of class. What is perhaps most remarkable is that while we have been very competitive, many new, inexperienced hams have participated with us for their first Field Day. We have operated at a variety of sites including Umstead State Park near RDU and for the past few years on the property of Jim(N4CAE) and Beth Carroll near Apex. RARS has also fielded simultaneous operations in past years.

How does RARS organized its field day operations?

RARS Field Day activities are guided by a field day chairman and band captains. The chairman has overall responsibility for securing a site, Port-a-John facilities, band captain recruitment and with the band captains, the layout of the site. In its budget RARS allocates about \$400 each year for field day expenses. This money is used to reimburse operators for the cost of generator gasoline, to rent the Port-a-Johns, to pay any fees associated with the site (there were such expenses when we operated from Umstead Park) and to pay for food and refreshments when someone volunteered to organize a Saturday evening meal for all the participants.

What are band captains and what do they do?

A band captain is the person who recruits a team of operators and helpers and with them, plans and organizes the operation of one or more field day stations. A band captain is responsible for making sure the station is properly equipped and manned, that it is operated according to the Field Day rules, that the log is maintained and that people are recruited to help set up, operate and take down the station and antennas. The principle job of the band captain is to organize. You don't need to have years of ham or Field Day experience but sometime in your ham career you should have a couple of Field Days as an active participant in a group operation. If you can organize, recruit and delegate and are willing to learn, you have what it takes. Successful band captains recruit and delegate – they don't do it alone and they certainly don't own all the equipment.

How do I participate?

If you would like to operate, help set up or take down a station contact the band captain of your choice. If you are interested in serving as a band captain or working for any of the bonus points, contact the chairman. Don't misunderstand, Field Day participation is not by invitation only! It's just helpful to the organizers for planning purposes to know how many folks to expect for different activities. The goal is to involve as many RARS members as possible.

Where can I get more information?

The ARRL Field Day link <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd> is the place to go for a copy of the rules and general Field Day information. Of course, for RARS it's the Field Day link at <http://www.rars.org> and by all means contact the chairman or any of the band captains for help with your questions.

What's the cure for Field Day fever?

There's only one cure: I'll see you at Field Day!

May 20, 2008 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT at 7:06 PM. The meeting was held at the Triangle Radio Reading Service located on Six Forks Road. The following members were present: Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, John AI4RT, Gary KN4AQ, Neal N4HAF, Chuck K4HF, Steve KB4HDQ, Greg KE4PAX, Ken KI4OTO, and Charles WB4DCM.

The minutes of the Board meeting of April 15, 2008 were approved as presented.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that we have 257 members. There needs to be a financial review. Steve KB4HDQ and Charles WB4DCM will participate in the review.

The Exciter deadline was May 19. At the present time, we are sending the Exciter via email with only 5 copies being printed and sent to those without email. There was brief discussion about providing printed copies to such locations as Radio Shack.

Webmaster Steve KB4HDQ will include more detail instructions as to our meeting room in Forest Hills Baptist Church and the Board meeting location.

Field Day Chair Neal N4HAF advised that he needed a chairperson for the GOTA station. There followed discussion about the budget for field day and the increased cost of gasoline.

VP Rick KB4TKQ was not present but his report was presented by Hank K4HM. At the April meeting we received \$18 in donations for the refreshments. The programs for June, July and August are as follows: Field Day presented by Neal N4HAF; PSK31 by Justin KI4WAF; and Home brewing power supplies by Johnny WA9SZL.

VE Team reported that RARSFest 08 was very busy. There were 54 people who tested. Of those, only 11 failed. Of the 43 that passed, 6 upgraded to Extra, 16 to General, and 21 became new Technicians. One 11 year old passed both Technician and General Class! Our thanks go out to Charlie W4VFJ, Neal N4HAF, Rod AB4RG, Jim KB4BZ, John AI4RT, Bob W4TTX, Dale AI4WF, and Vessie AI4UP for a job well done.

The Dick Bitner Fund currently has funds remaining in it. However the Board decided not put additional funds into it at the present time.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT presented discussion about the web page and how to track volunteers for various public service events. The upcoming events are: NC State Fair June 5-8, Chuck K4HF has all the volunteers that he needs at this time; Tour De Cure bicycle race from Cary to Oxford and back on June 7-8; Race of the Cure run/walk on June 14; and Firecracker 100K and 50K bicycle ride in Cary on July 4.

Hamfest Chair Hank K4HM reminded everyone of the workers party on May 31 at Lake Crabtree. We do not have the final financial info on the 08 RARSFest. Currently working on a date for next year.

ARRL Liaison Chuck K4HF stated that the Dayton Ham Fest went well. Perhaps the threat of rain may have had an impact.

FM Repeater/PIO Chair Gary KN4AQ stated that the D-STAR repeater was down and being moved to Durham. Our Kenwood repeater still has not come back from Kenwood. K4RLC would like to use the 146.64 repeater on May 31 to demonstrate ham radio at a hurricane preparedness meeting. Approval was granted by voice vote.

At-Large Director Ken KI4OTO advised that the Survey Committee had only received about 7-8 responses which is not much. He would like to give out surveys at a meeting and allocate a few minutes for each person to complete and then turn in upon departure.

Old Business

We need to find a location for our October and December meetings. The October meeting is our auction night and the current room at Forest Hills Baptist Church is not large enough. Likewise for our December meeting. Several options were discussed.

Molly Gearn, sister of Tim Buehlmann W4TIM, sent a letter to RARS with a check in appreciation of Tim's friendship at RARS. Since her letter did not specify a specific project, the money will go to our general fund.

The proposed budget for next fiscal year was presented and discussed in detail. Included in the discussion were ways to keep old members from dropping out or rejoin and how to get computer types as a SIG. The adjusted budget was approved.

New Business

There was no new business.

Comments

Gary KN4AQ commented that the up-down button on the mic of the IC-706 can be used to send CW.

Hank K4HM suggested that we needed a brochure about RARS to give to those persons that complete a Technician Class exam. The discussion expanded to include a brochure that could be left at other locations such as Radio Shack.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM

June 3, 2008 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on June 3, 2008 at Forest Hills Baptist Church on Dixie Trail in Raleigh, NC.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT at 7:31 PM. New RARS members Bob Chapman NC1X and Jack Baker K4WFJ were welcomed. The survey committee was thanked for their work and everyone was encouraged to complete the survey. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the general meeting of May 2008.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS now has 259 members but that dues are now due and that number may change. Our year-to-date figures are looking better than in the previous year. The results of RARSFest are looking good. Greg advised of some of our expenses such as donations to the Triangle Radio Reading Service, Powell Elementary School, insurance and field day.

VP Rick KB4TKQ announced that the July program would be PSK-31 and that the August meeting program would be power supplies.

President Selene then made the following announcements: donations for refreshments are encouraged; the RARS dinner is next Tuesday, June 10 at Golden Corral; the RARS Board will meet on June 17, all are invited; all persons interested in the after meeting social are invited; the Winston-Salem hamfest is June 14; Salisbury on July 12 and the Cary hamfest is July 19 and includes VE testing.

RARS Education Coordinator Virginia NC4VA announced that there would be Tech and General class instructions after field day. Details are being finalized now. The Apex ERC net meets on Sundays at 9:00 PM on the 146.64 repeater. They are established for emergency communications and all hams are invited to participate. Various programs about emergency communications are presented.

Public Service Coordinator John AI4RT advised of the Tour de Cure race on June 7 & 8; Run for the Cure June 14 needs volunteers; and the Firecracker 50K on July 4. If you can volunteer, contact John at ai4rt@hotmail.com. John said Chuck, K4HF had sufficient volunteers for the Red Cross radio operations for the NCS Festival June 5 through 8, 2008 at the NCS Fairgrounds.

President Selene advised that since we are a 501 (c) (3) corporation, any expenses incurred may be tax deductible. Keep good records and talk with your tax advisor.

Survey Committee Chair Ken KI4OTO requested that everyone complete the survey. That is the technique that the club uses to determine what the members want.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX presented the budget for next fiscal year and went through the details. The budget for next fiscal year was approved as presented.

Justin Pinnix KI4WAF took the floor and briefly discussed an antenna that had been struck by lightning. The center insulator was broken in half with one half missing. One leg of the dipole was just gone, could not be found. The 600 ohm feed line looked like an insane beaver attacked it. Unfortunately, the lightning/power surge did go into the residence.

Mary Jo K4MJL held the prize drawing. Alan AB4OZ won the ARRL Antenna Book; Charlie WB4DCM and Steve KJ4BX also won prizes..

Chuck K4HF announced that the Board was looking for projects that needed funding. If any member had any projects or suggestions, please bring them to the attention of the Board.

VP Rick KB4TKQ announced that the Asheboro Aviation Museum would open on June 7 and that there would be a fly-in in Virginia on June 14.

The program on Field Day was presented by Neal N4HAF. Set up will be on Friday, June 27th. We can deliver equipment anytime but cannot commence with set up until after 2:00 PM. Field day will begin on Saturday, June 28th at 2:00 PM and cease on Sunday, June 29th at 2:00 PM. RARS will have 7 transmitters plus VHF/UHF which will put us in the 7A category. The location will be the same as for many previous years, the Carroll's 40 acre farm in the New Hill/Apex area. Go to the RARS web page for a map. We will operate a GOTA station for new or semi inactive operators. All members and guests are encouraged to come out. The main event will be the catered BBQ supper at 5:30 :PM!!! We then enjoyed the video done by Gary KN4AQ about field day.

President Selene advised that we had a lost-and-found jacket that was left at a previous meeting. Anyone going to the social after the meeting was asked to hang around after the meeting.

Survey Committee Chair Ken KI4OTO requested that the survey sheets be turned in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



Upcoming Nets

July 8: "National Weather Association" with NWA Executive Assistant Ruth Aiken KI4ZCW.

July 22: "Drought Update" with Raleigh NWS Hydrologist Mike Moneypenny.

July 29: "RDU Terminal Dopplar Radar, etc." with Raleigh NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figskey KC2IPY.



The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

Same net – new name! The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter net is becoming the **Apex Emergency Response Communications net (Apex ERC)**. The name change is effective March 30, 2008. The net will still meet at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. The organization provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The RARS

~~Exciter~~

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
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For information
about public service
opportunities, upcoming
hamfests, and more,
visit www.rars.org.